

Partnership Schools Program Speech

CMR

April 27, 2010

Thank you very much for coming tonight to celebrate the Partnership Schools Program. It is my pleasure to host this reception to recognize the work we have done together on this program. Improving the quality of education is a priority our nations share; creating opportunities for our children is a goal that unites our two nations as partners and friends. We are always looking for ways to broaden this partnership, and we support our friends in the Ministries in their efforts to expand and improve English-language education in Algeria.

We have been working on the Partnership Schools Program with the Ministry of National Education since 2005. In this time, we have introduced an interactive eMath program in pilot elementary schools in Algiers and Ghardaia, which has improved math test scores for students participating in the program. We have linked over 36 Algerian high schools across the country with schools in the United States to allow sharing of culture and ideas, using technology to improve Algerian

students' English language skills and link them to a global community. And we have helped improve English language outcomes by training teachers, inspectors, examination writers, and curriculum specialists.

In 2009, MEPI and PSP expanded their programming to include the Ministry of Higher Education. Over the past year, we have trained faculty in best practices at University English Departments in Algiers, Oran, and Constantine.

I'd like to recognize the following people for their invaluable contributions to this program: the Minister of National Education, Boubker Benbouzid; Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Rachid Haraoubia; Madame Younsi and Monsieur Si-Ahmed at the Direction of Cooperation and Directors at the Ministry of National Education; Monsieur Saidani in the Direction of Cooperation at the Ministry of Higher Education; and the Rectors and English Department heads at the participating universities. I am especially grateful for the hard work of Creative Associates Field Manager Sarah Havekost. Her efforts over the past five years have built partnerships with the Ministry

of National Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, university professors, high school teachers, English-language inspectors, exam writers, and curriculum specialists. These partnerships will continue and expand after this program concludes this autumn. Without her, this program could not have been so successful. I would now like to invite Sarah to say a few words.